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Subscriptions to the Current Expenses of the Museum

ON February 14th the Museum sent the appeal for Annual Subscriptions reprinted below. The response already has been generous; the need of funds, however, is such that the Trustees take this opportunity of calling the attention of the public again to their appeal.

THE Trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts ask the public for contributions to meet the running expenses of the Museum for 1919.

The Museum has been developed and maintained entirely by private gifts, except for an original grant of land by the city. In its very valuable collections, its land, its building, and its funds, restricted and unrestricted, the Museum presents a splendid instance of private generosity dedicated to a public use. Clearly it should not be obliged to cease development. Yet to provide for a greater service the Museum needs a much larger sum of money, not merely to cover the large deficits of the current years, but to develop its value as a great institution of art. For this greater service the Museum must depend now as hitherto on the generous civic spirit of those who believe in the value of what it offers, whether that spirit be manifested in gifts or bequests.

The Trustees believe that the Museum, now open free to all who choose to enter, is entitled to a much larger support; and with the war over they confidently believe that many former subscribers will increase their subscriptions and that many new ones will come forward.

The Annual Report for 1918 will be issued in a few weeks and will be sent to subscribers at once and to all others on application. It will give a full account of the objects of art that the Museum has acquired and the work that it has accomplished during the year.

The Trustees desire to express again through the Committee on the Museum their grateful appreciation of the generosity of the annual subscribers and their faith in its continuance.

COMMITTEE ON THE MUSEUM

HOLKER ABBOTT
THOMAS ALLEN
WILLIAM STURGIS BIGELOW
ALEXANDER COCHRANE
JOHN TEMPLEMAN COOLIDGE
WILLIAM CROWNINSHIELD ENDICOTT
MORRIS GRAY
DENMAN WALDO ROSS
ARTHUR FAIRBANKS, Chairman

A subscription of ten dollars or upwards entitles the subscriber to an invitation to all general receptions and private views held at the Museum during the year, with copies of the Annual Report, the bi-monthly Bulletin of the Museum, and, upon application, the Hand-book of the Museum.

Checks should be made payable to the Museum of Fine Arts and addressed to the Museum.

From the Forty-Third Annual Report of the Museum

THE acquisitions of the year 1918 by gift and purchase, which were many and important, have been noticed in the Bulletin. Objects acquired from the excavations in Egypt under Dr. Reisner still remain in that country with previous acquisitions during the war. It is hoped that all may shortly be brought to the Museum.

Special exhibitions of the year included an exhibition of the collection of musical instruments given to the Museum by Mr. William Lindsey, in memory of his daughter, Mrs. Leslie Lindsey Mason; a memorial exhibition of the works of Bela L. Pratt; an exhibition of the portrait of President Wilson by John S. Sargent; an exhibition of the two portraits of Mr. John D. Rockefeller by the same artist; and an exhibition of works by soldier artists of France.

The closing of a large part of the building in January and February, owing to the coal shortage, and of the whole Museum for over three weeks in October, owing to the epidemic of influenza, contributed to reduce the number of visitors from 224,735 in 1917 to 212,281 in 1918. Owing doubtless to many calls upon the charity of the community for war purposes, the annual subscriptions to the Museum showed a similar decrease from \$36,491.17, given by 1742 subscribers in 1917, to \$35,220.00, given by 1607 subscribers in 1918. Both the number of admissions and the amount of annual subscriptions would doubtless have been materially less but for the decision of the Trustees at the beginning of the year to open the Museum free.

Legacies were received during the year to the amount of \$36,556.72, of which \$5,556.72 was given for specified purposes. The gifts of money amounted to \$20,779.50, practically all for the purchase of works of art.

The current expenses of the Museum were \$196,116.20. The sum is slightly larger than in 1917, partly on account of the increased cost and amount of the coal purchased. The income of the year from all sources was \$128,260.89, a somewhat smaller sum than in 1917, owing in part to the somewhat smaller annual subscriptions and the termination of income from admission fees.

The Rotunda of the building has been prepared for its contemplated decoration by Mr. John S. Sargent. It is expected that Mr. Sargent may within a few weeks begin work upon it.

Publications by officers of the Museum during the year consist of sixteen articles and three separate volumes by eight authors. The articles include a monograph on "The Ludovisi Relief and its companion-piece in Boston," by Dr. Lacey D. Caskey. The books are "The Dance of Siva — fourteen Indian essays," by Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, "Museum Ideals of Purpose and Method," by Benjamin Ives Gilman, and "Extracts from the 'Ch'üan Pu Tung Chih' of Mêng Lin," translated by Kojiro Tomita.